

53. (Amended) [Apparatus] A progressive die according to Claim 22, wherein at least one of said bridge means has an arcuate shape.

54. (Amended) [Apparatus] A progressive die according to Claim 22, wherein said bridge means has a chevron shape.

Please cancel Claims 44, 45, 46, 49, 50 and 51 without prejudice.

REMARKS:

Applicant's attorney wishes to make a record of the substance of a telephone conference on July 20, 1992 between Examiner R. Woods and the undersigned attorney. During this telephone conference, Examiner Woods stated that he would be sending an Official Action, which was mailed on July 27, 1992. During the telephone conference, Examiner Woods agreed to allow claims on a die for shaping blanks or discs having geometric centers on a center line, the die including means for enabling the center-to-center distance between adjacent discs to change while maintaining the centers on the center line. Examiner Woods also agreed to allow process claims containing language similar to that set out above, and to allow claims on a strip of discs which more specifically set out the width of the slots between the discs.

The claims covering the die and the process are being amended herein to include the language agreed to with Examiner Woods, and it is submitted that these amendments place the claims in allowable form.

An amendment is being made to page 9 of the specification to explicitly set forth the language used in the claims and agreed to as discussed above, while not adding new matter. More specifically, this amendment refers to a center line of the strip and the die stations and states that the centers of the discs remain substantially on the center line when the bridges deform to change the center-to-center distance. The subject matter discussed above was disclosed in the description, claims and drawings of the application as originally filed. Original Claims 7 and 16 recite a longitudinal center line of the strip, which is located between and at

equal distances from the bridges; thus, the center line extends through the centers of the discs. Figure 2 of the application drawings also shows that the discs have centers and that the centers fall on a center line between the bridges 59 and 60. In the description, the paragraphs between line 24, page 8 and line 11, page 10 describe the centers of the stations and the discs and the changes in the center-to-center distances of the discs when the bridges deform as shown in Figure 5, for example. Figure 2 also shows that the centers of the discs remain on the center line when the bridge deformation occurs.

With specific reference to the points raised in the Action, on page 2 of the Action a number of claims were rejected as being indefinite. Appropriate amendments are being made to overcome these objections, except for the objection to Claim 10, line 3. The objected to phrase "two of said bridges are provided" was previously deleted by the amendment filed on March 12, 1992.

All of the Independent Claims 3, 7, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22 and 47, and, of course, all of the claims dependent thereon, in substance recite the arrangement of the center line, the centers of the discs, and the change along the center line in the center-to-center distance permitted by narrow deformable bridges, as discussed above and in accordance with the agreement with the Examiner.

The Archer patent discloses only a side-to-side adjustment to cure a camber problem and does not disclose narrow deformable bridges to permit center-to-center adjustment for a progression problem. Similarly, the "acknowledged prior art" does not contain narrow deformable bridges such as would enable a center-to-center adjustment. The Murch patent relates to scroll material which has previously been acknowledged to be part of the prior art, and this patent is not pertinent to this invention.

It is therefore submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are patentable over the prior art cited in the Action and are allowable.

With regard to the paper number 12 filed on 5/1/92 and questioned by the examiner, attached hereto is another copy of this paper. It includes five pages and they have been marked with numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the purpose of this discussion. Pages 1 and 2 were received from a person in Germany and refer to a construction that may have been used in Europe. Pages 3, 4 and 5 were prepared by Mr. Fosnaugh, the present applicant. Page 4 includes, in about the center of the page, a photocopy of the sketch of page 2. The applicant has added the sectional view, the sketch in the lower center of the page, and the comments "Too wide to 'stretch'" and "could 'stretch' but doubtful Would 'buckle' easier than prior design". Page 3 contains comments of the applicant; the first two sentences relate to the sketch on page 2, and the last two sentences refer to the sketch (prepared by the applicant) appearing at the lower center of page 4. Page 5 shows, on the left, the prior design illustrated in Figure 1 of this application and, on the right, a strip in accordance with the invention disclosed herein. Page 5 illustrates the difference between the invention disclosed herein and the prior design of Figure 1 of this application. If the foregoing does not clarify this paper, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Claim 15, indicated in the Action as being allowable, has been rewritten in independent form and the indefiniteness rejection has been obviated. This claim is now in allowable form.


It is submitted that the proposed amendments are in accordance with the agreement reached with the Examiner and do not raise new issues requiring a further search. It is also submitted that this amendment places the claims in allowable

form and it is therefore requested that it be entered and the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, O'TOOLE, GERSTEIN,
MURRAY & BICKNELL

Date: August 20, 1992


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TELEFAX

To Number

Company Name FE Bluffton

 Attention Herb Wise

From Name P. Klippel

Departement TB

Phone No. 06571/105-24

Number of Pages 2

12. Juni 1991

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Our visit at Kienle and Spiess from the 9/5/1989

Dear Mr. Wise,

The date of this visit was the 5. of September 1989.

Participant on this meeting:

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Elter | from Kienle + Spiess |
| Mr. Maske | FE |
| P. Klippel | FE |
| Mr. Emmert | FE |

I made some notes about this meeting. But I have not a notice with the "stretch holes".

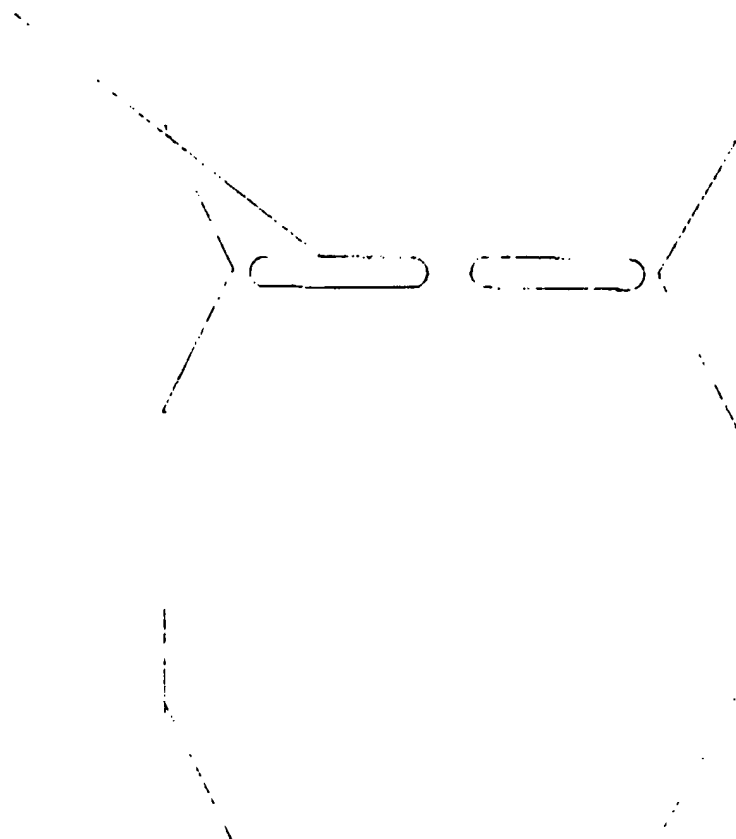
I am sure that that Peter Maske and Mr. Elter talked about this stamping problem at Franklin's 6" stator lams.

4 weeks later, I was with Peter Maske in Bluffton and I can remember, that Peter Maske talked to Cliff Biber about the "stretch holes" from Kienle + Spiess.

I can't remember the form of these holes. So far as I remember these holes from K+S are long-holes.

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"stretch hole"



Regards
Bob Appel

#2

6-17-91

TO: HERB WISE

FROM: D. FOSNAUGH

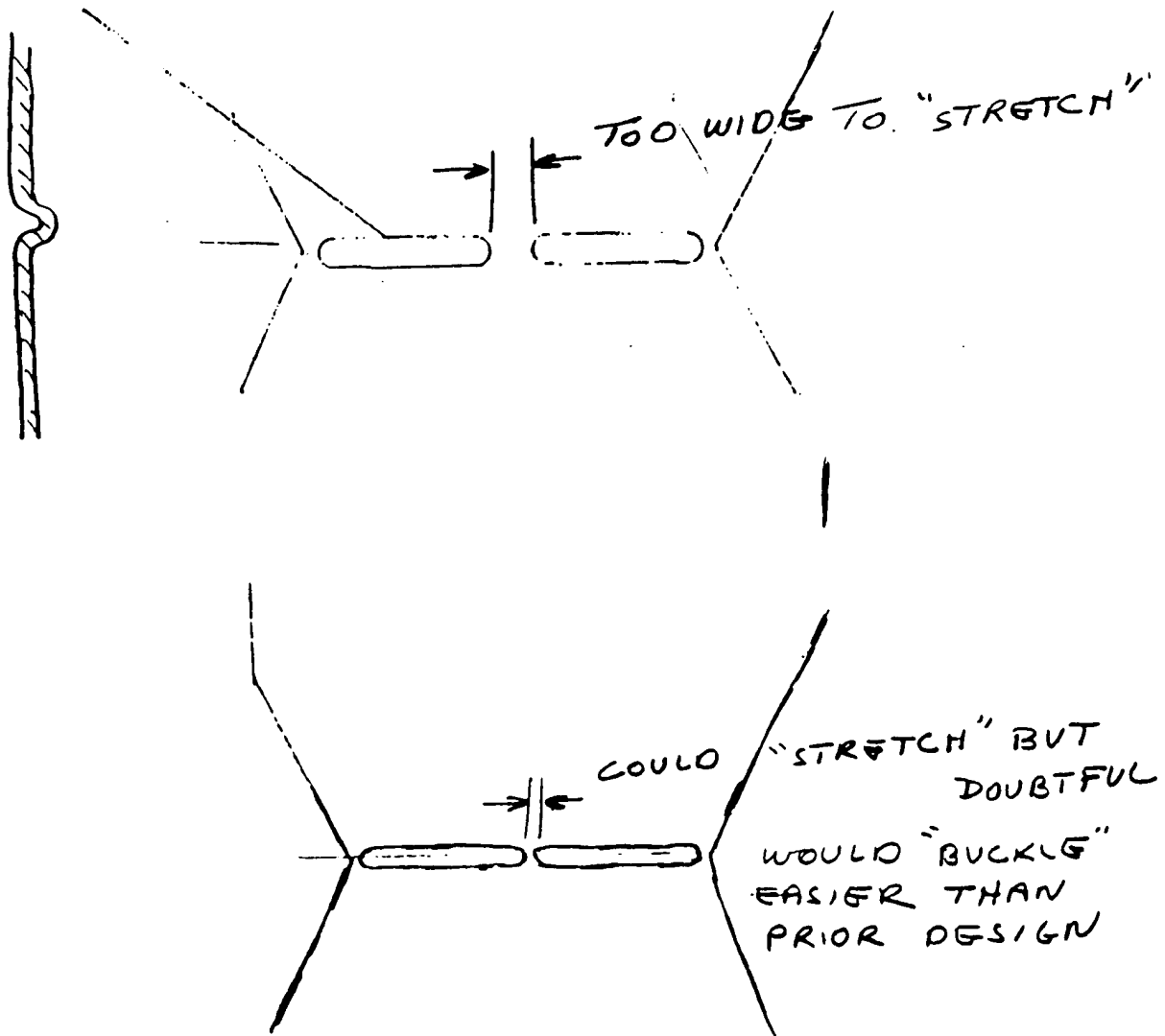
HERB,

AFTER REVIEWING THE SKETCH SHOWING THE "STRETCH HOLE" FROM MR. P. KLIPPEL, IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE SHAPE PORTRAYED WILL DO NOTHING TO ALLEVIATE THE PROGRESSION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SCROLL SLIT STEEL. PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS SIMILAR TO OUR PRIOR DESIGN, WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH THE STANDARD IN THE LAM STAMPING INDUSTRY. IF WE TOOK OUR PRIOR DESIGN AND EXTENDED THE CUT-OUTS, LEAVING NARROW BRIDGES CONNECTING THE SECTIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE THE RESULTS WOULD BE THE SAME AS THE "CHEVRON", BUT I DON'T THINK AS NEARLY EFFECTIVE OR PREDICTABLE

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"stretch hole"



Regards
Bob [signature]

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